

provisions are just what the doctor ordered. Every business owner I talked to in Columbus, Ohio, tells me how important these expensing deductions are because when we lower costs, we free up income. That lets us businesses make investments elsewhere.

How often do we forget that over 23 million small business owners pay taxes at the personal rates, not the lower corporate tax rates. Did you ever wonder where the Democrats come up with these bogus numbers for the "super rich" and then they wage class warfare with these numbers? The dirty little secret they hope Americans do not realize is that most of these super wealthy people are actually small business owners.

Finally, the capital gains and dividends relief provisions in this package are an economist's dream come true. History is on our side. Every time this Congress has reduced the capital gains rate in this country, the economy has grown and revenues into Washington have increased. Conversely, every time we have raised the rate in order to tax businesses more and reduce the deficit, the opposite has happened. It is a simple economic truism. If you want more of something, tax it less.

So the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and the Committee on Ways and Means have developed a revolutionary idea to tax both dividends and capital gains less. This provision alone is projected to produce 400,000 new jobs and boost the stock market by as much as \$550 billion. That is what I call a return on investment.

Mr. Speaker, we have failed the American taxpayer and the American worker if we do not first commit in this body to do our level best to create more and better-paying jobs, and that is what we have done. Taken together, this package will produce 1.2 million new jobs in a little more than a year.

In contrast, our opponents' plan pledges more spending and more unemployment checks, but no new jobs. There is not one guarantee for any new job under their plan because they raise taxes on individuals and businesses 1 year after they lower them.

So the next time Members hear of soaking the rich or reverse Robin Hood, just ask our opponents if their constituents would prefer 1.2 million new jobs or none with an unemployment check. The choice is clear.

This economy has one obstacle standing between historic levels of growth and a jobless recovery. That is meaningful tax relief. As Members, we can choose to do something about it, to make bold decisions for a bold recovery. Or we can sit on the sidelines, wring our hands, and hope, like the Democrats, that things get better on their own.

Mr. Speaker, the American people did not send us here to be potted plants. We came to change the course of history, to make this country a better place to live, work and raise a family, and that is what I intend to do.

#### VOTE FOR DEMOCRATIC SUBSTITUTE ON JOBS AND GROWTH PACKAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, what I like about the opportunity in addressing colleagues and speaking about issues in a pointed fashion, we can simply cut to the chase.

Mr. Speaker, it was in 1993 that a Democratic House and the President of the United States had to make a very difficult decision. But out of making that budgetary decision, we moved into the 1990s rebuilding our economy and generating the kind of surplus that America had not seen for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 years. In 1997 again, when I was a Member of this body, the President of the United States, William Jefferson Clinton, and many of us, the Democratic Caucus, worked in a bipartisan manner to put forward a budget that really addressed the question of rebuilding the surplus.

So we see that out of that work we do not have to give anecdotal stories. We do not have to speak to pie in the sky. We have real proof because in January 2001 we had a \$5.6 trillion surplus built upon the sacrifices of Democrats and the willingness to invest in the American public.

As we move through the Republican presidency, President Bush and the Republican Congress, under the Republican budget we now have a minus \$2 trillion deficit as given to us by the Congressional Budget Office and the House Budget Committee, two independent sources.

Interestingly enough, we come over here to this question of jobs, and we hear that the bill on the floor of the House tomorrow is a job growth bill. We surely need jobs. I need jobs in Houston, Texas, and the State of Texas, jobs in New York and California, Mississippi and Kansas and Colorado, jobs all over the Nation. Well, from January 1993 to April 1995, the Bureau of Labor Statistics will tell us that the labor market gained 6.8 million jobs, not pie in the sky, reality.

Under President Clinton's policies and a Democratic Caucus working together from 1993 to 1995, we gained 6.8 million jobs. Then we get to January 2001, changing the administration and a Republican Congress, April 2003, we have lost 2.7 million jobs.

That is why I believe it is extremely important that we look realistically at what we need to do tomorrow. Frankly, what we need to do is to pass a real jobs growth initiative. The Democrats have the answer. We know that millions of Americans are going to lose their unemployment benefits, working men and women who do not owe us anything, we owe them because they worked and put dollars into the economy. So we want to extend Federal unemployment benefits.

We believe that we should support the States who are suffering. Texas alone has a \$12 billion deficit. Republicans are down in Texas trying to redraw lines of congressional seats that will cost the State millions and millions of dollars. It is a nonsensical plan, but we are willing to commit money to the States to help with Medicaid, education, homeland security and infrastructure.

We were just in Texas looking at the needs of the Port Authority, looking at the needs of hospitals and emergency rooms. This is a program that makes sense to put money into States and support them. Yes, we would like to make sure that we include a response to the Republican plan by creating jobs. Every single aspect of our particular proposal, the Democratic proposal, would do so.

I hope there is a substitute. But, Mr. Speaker, frankly, I hope that it is a substitute that will draw the support of all of our colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, because if Members are truly interested in job creation, we cannot do it by giving a tax cut to 1 percent of the population or individuals making over \$350,000. Those individuals making a million dollars and up getting \$17,000 in a tax cut, and as the numbers go down to working Americans, we wind up with zero.

People are hurting. The unemployment rate is increasing, but let me add another component to this. This is the month of May. I will be attending many, many graduations, young Americans looking for jobs. And I can say there are no jobs. The job numbers are down. Add to that the brave men and women from the United States military just returning from Iraq. Yes, many will maintain their service in the military, and we applaud that. But many of them will be ending their service in the military, brave men and women who were willing to offer themselves to fight for our principles, and they have no jobs, plain and simple.

I do not understand how we can put forward a tax cut of \$550 billion, ultimately \$1.7 trillion, and suggest it is job creation when if Members speak to any of the CEOs of the Fortune 500 corporations and others they question whether or not the dividend tax cut would generate any dollars. What we need is investment in our small businesses, and investment in homeland security and infrastructure. That creates jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I am about to submit to the Committee on Rules another amendment that decreases taxes, and that is for those hard-working, tax-paying employees that suffered the roller coast of corporate malfeasance and criminal activity of corporations like WorldCom, which went bankrupt, Enron went bankrupt, they gave them severance pay, and they had to pay taxes on the severance pay.

I am putting forward an amendment which will decrease taxes on these hard-working Americans who lost their